

Volunteer Fire Assistance Criteria

- 1) Public Law 95-313, Sec. 7; requires a 50% - 50% matching share, up to a limit of \$22,500.00. However a limit of \$20,000.00 per fire department has been imposed by Forestry so that more fire departments will have the opportunity to participate. Forestry will also provide match of funds up to 90% with 10% of the total project cost matched by the fire department. ***Local matching funds must be available and documented when application is made. Please furnish the appropriate documentation of matching funds with your application. Failure to provide this documentation will be grounds for disqualification.***
- 2) Fire department service areas must be less than 10,000 in population and the department must be registered with the Alaska State Fire Marshall.
- 3) Fire departments are required to be current on past VFA grants in order to be eligible for this year's program.
- 4) VFA grant funding cannot be used for the following:
 - a. Repair, construction or purchase of buildings.
 - b. Land acquisition
 - c. Pressurized waterlines and hydrants
 - d. Emergency medical equipment
 - e. Any equipment not fire related
 - f. Normal operating expenses (salaries, utilities, fuel etc.)
 - g. Footware/boots
 - h. Any single item costing \$4,999.00 or more (including shipping)
- 5) Applications will receive a higher rating if one or more of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Fire departments have a cooperating agreement with the Alaska Division of Forestry, Department of Interior Agency, or the USDA Forest Service to attack wildland fires within their service area
 - b. Newly established (less than 12 months), State Fire Marshall approved fire departments.
 - c. Fire departments that have not previously received VFA funding
 - d. Purchase of equipment especially used on wildland fires, such as portable pumps, fold-a-tanks, hose, communications equipment, etc.
 - e. Applications requesting training (documented, either structural or wildland)
 - f. Documented match exceeds 10%.
- 6) For matching purposes up to \$2,000.00 worth of in-kind services may be used by the Fire Departments in lieu of copies of invoices and cancelled checks. In-kind services can be unpaid attendance at fire protection training courses and/or workshops, at the equivalent pay rate of EFF-3 or attendance at fire protection training courses and/or workshops at the employee's normal Fire Department pay rate, if the employee is a paid employee of the Department. Documentation will consist of a roster of the course or workshop, title and brief description, date, employee's names in attendance and signature, hours and total equivalent of pay (at current EFF-3 pay rate). For 2011 the EFF 3 pay rate was \$15.45 per hour. The rate for 2012 has not been established yet but may be slightly higher than the 2011 rate.

Questions may be directed to the Fire Management Officer at your nearest Forestry Office.